



# From The Heart

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oberlin, Ohio

Fall 2017

## Healing Prayer

“Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness.” (Mt 9:35) Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus commanded his followers, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation...these signs will accompany those who believe...they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.” (Mk 16:16-18).

In June 2016 our parish began offering Prayer for Healing on the first Sunday of each month after the 10 a.m. Mass. What is healing prayer? Does our Catholic church approve of it? Why should we seek it? Are people being healed today?

Healing is commonly understood as the process that restores the soundness, integrity or wholeness of the body, mind or spirit. Through healing, one overcomes affliction and pain and returns to a general condition of peace and well-being. Physical healing is only one of many forms of healing (Healing Ministry Guidelines, Diocese of Cleveland).

Does the Catholic Church approve of healing? Absolutely. *Acts of the Apostles* makes it clear that the early church carried on Jesus’ ministry of praying with the sick as an integral part of its work of proclaiming the gospel. Like Jesus, the first Christians unhesitatingly reached out to respond to people in their immediate needs. Over the centuries the practice of praying for the sick became limited to the saints and to special shrines. Now, according to our Diocesan Guidelines, this ministry is being rediscovered. All Christians are called to feed the hungry and proclaim the gospel; and we are called to pray with one another for healing and other needs. This is not meant to replace the work of the healing profession or the healing power of the sacraments, “the pre-eminent celebrations of healing” (Diocesan Guidelines, p.5), but to work along with them to give help and comfort to God’s people.

Healing prayer reveals God’s incomprehensible love for each human being. Many of us have “head knowledge” of God but not “heart knowledge.” Healing prayer leads us to experience God’s love through healing of our bodies, minds, and spirits. Jesus is alive! People are being healed today just as they were when Jesus walked the earth in first century Judea. Modern Catholics, including some of us, have experienced and witnessed healing miracles firsthand.

Will all who are prayed with receive what they ask? No. Those praying, unlike Jesus, are imperfect channels for God’s healing love. But we do believe that when people pray sincerely and earnestly for healing, some kind of healing will take place, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

Come experience the comfort and the power of having others pray with you for your needs the first Sunday of each month following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. – blessing of pets**

Sunday, October 8, noon—6:00 p.m – Lifetouch individual/family photos, especially for Christmas pictures/cards. Sign up on parish website: [sacredheartoberlin.org](http://sacredheartoberlin.org) or call the office at 77-6791 and ask Susan to help you sign up. [Click on BULLETINS for additional information.]

Monday, October 9, 2:00—9:00 - Lifetouch Christmas photos (see note above)

### **Sunday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m. Mass – anointing of the sick.**

**Saturday/Sunday – women’s retreat at St. Joseph Church in Amherst. Sat/Sun Oct 21st/22nd.**

### **REGISTER ON LINE!**

This fall, we’ll start showing Bishop Robert Barron’s *Pivotal Players*. The first chance to view one of the stories will be at 2:00 p.m. in the education building on Sunday, November 5th, when the story of Michaelangelo will be shown. Light refreshments will be provided, and discussion will follow. [Not to worry, football fans: it’s a bye week for the Browns.]

## Feelings vs Values

If you asked people what's the most important thing they will ever have, I would imagine you would get a variety of answers. Some would say money. Well, money is important because it's better to have it than not have it but it definitely isn't the most important thing. Just ask all the rich people who are miserable in life. How about love? Surely that's got to be it. How can we live without the love of family and friends? But I don't think that's it either. Then how about happiness? Who wants to be unhappy? Again, I don't think that's number one. Without what I'm thinking about, there would be very little happiness or love. What I'm thinking about is values. Let me explain.

A value is something you think is more important than anything else -- more important than money, more important than love and even more important than happiness. And above all, values are what you consider to be more important than your feelings. This is very hard for a lot of people to believe because we live in a time when feelings are king, when people think that how they feel about something is more important than anything else, but that isn't so. And here's a simple example of the conflict between a feeling and a value. Just about everyone feels like eating junk food but there's a big problem here. If you eat whatever you feel like eating, you'll end up overweight and unhealthy. So then, what is it that stops people from eating all the fatty food they feel like eating? The answer is a value, the value of staying healthy. There is, in other words, a battle that goes on inside most people: the battle between what they feel -- in this case the desire to eat fatty foods -- and the value they hold -- in this case staying healthy and living longer.

Now, as important as a healthy body is, the conflict between what we feel like doing and the values we hold is even more important when it comes to doing what is right, when it comes to how we treat other people, not just ourselves. Let me give you another example. Imagine you're walking on a beach with the dog you love when you look out at the water and see your dog drowning. And imagine, too, that at the same time about 100 feet from your dog, a person you don't know is also drowning. Now, which would you try to save first? Just about anyone who loves their pet would feel like saving their dog. But what if you value human life even more than an animal's life -- and hopefully you do. Then your value -- the unique preciousness of a human being -- is in conflict with your feelings for your pet. Then you have to choose between what you value and what you feel. And that decision defines the kind of person you are.

The same thing holds true for students who are taking an important test in school. If they cheat on that test, they may avoid failing. But what if they have a value -- what we call a moral value -- that cheating is wrong? They may feel like cheating but, if they have a moral value, they know it's wrong to cheat. Again, there's the battle between one's feelings and one's values.

Almost everything that's wrong with the world comes from people either not having higher moral values or not living by them because they feel they want to do something else. People who murder feel like murdering and they do what they feel rather than live by the value of respecting human life. People who steal feel that they want the things they don't have so they take what they feel like having rather than live by the value of being honest.

The list is endless and it's not hard for each of us to add to it every day of our life. That's why good values are the most important thing any of us can ever have. Without them, the world would be a very terrible place. As Christian people our values come from the teachings of Jesus Christ and the teachings of our Church. There will always be a struggle between what we value and what we feel. But remember this: the best people you know -- meaning the kindest and most honest -- are people who battle their feelings every day. And so should you, knowing that with the grace of God you'll win that battle more often than not.

*Fr. Cole*

**“Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)**



### ***Update: Bakisa who is our interpreter.***

We recently interviewed Bakisa, the interpreter who has tirelessly served as a bridge between the Abdi family and our group. We share part of her story here.

When she was nine years old, Bakisa and her brother and sister left their native Somalia to join their father, stepmother and half-siblings in the United States. In many ways, Bakisa's experience mirrors that of the Abdi family. Both fled a war-torn Somalia (Bakisa initially for the United Arab Emirates, Hamdi for a Kenyan refugee camp). Both arrived in the United States knowing little English. Both had lost a parent. While the Abdi children lost their father, Bakisa's mother died when she was five.



But their experiences were also quite different. While Bakisa came to the United States to join family, the Abdis came entirely on their own. At the same time, Bakisa's father was a well-established businessman in the United States, while Hamdi came not knowing how she would be able to feed her family.

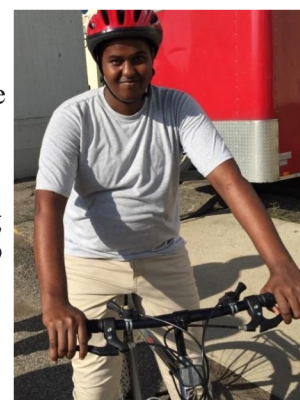


When she first arrived in the United States, Bakisa immediately noticed the nation's size. She was shocked to realize her father had to take three highways to get from the airport to her new Dallas home. She was also struck by the beauty of her new nation. Never before had she seen evergreen trees and fall foliage, yet she also recalls the discomfort she felt as Americans stared at her because of her differences.

Bakisa credits her father, her ESL courses and Cartoon Network/Nickelodeon for helping her learn English, a task made more difficult because her younger half-siblings spoke no Somali. And while she says that initially the biggest challenge facing the

Abdi family was their concern about intruders and strangers, those fears have disappeared as the children now confidently bike up and down their street. She says their biggest struggle today is learning English. She frequently offers them this advice: "Study, be proactive and be kids."

Bakisa says that a warm greeting can make a big difference to newcomers to the United States. Today, as a translator for Catholic Relief Services, she serves as one of those offering that greeting as weary refugees make their way down the escalator to baggage claim and into their new lives. In many ways, our group strives to be like Bakisa. We hope to serve as bridges, to help others see commonalities rather than just differences. We hope to offer a warm welcome to those new to our nation.



#### **SIDEBAR**

I am really enjoying spending time with my own siblings to share experiences with the Abdi family siblings. Last week I had a flashback to teaching my brother how to ride a bike as I watched one of the Abdi family siblings help another with the same exciting milestone. As we played bocce in the backyard, they bickered about which ball was actually closest. The youngest sister tried to trick others into awarding her more points, a reminder of childhood games in our house. As we practiced English, the older sister helped the younger ones with spelling words. The examples come each time we are together, but the core shared love, laughter, and companionship is a fun reminder of growing up with my siblings. ~*Steffani Chmura*



**“Therefore, be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)**



## DID YOU KNOW ...

... that all the following are/were Catholic authors? (Listed with some of their best-known works,)  
 Geoffrey Chaucer (“The Canterbury Tales”; “Troilus and Criseyde”; called “father of English literature”)  
 J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings*)  
 Ralph McInerny (U. of Notre Dame professor; authority on Thomism; author of the Father Dowling and other mystery series)  
 Ernest Hemingway, convert (*For Whom The Bell Tolls, Heart of Darkness, A Farewell to Arms*)  
 Mary Higgins Clark (*I’ve Got You Under My Skin*)  
 Tony Hillerman (*The Blessing Way*)  
 Jack Kerouac (*On The Road, Big Sur*)  
 Dean Koontz, convert (*Watchers, The Silent Corner, One Door Away From Heaven*)  
 F. Scott Fitzgerald (*Tender is the Night, This Side of Paradise, Benjamin Button*)  
 Malcolm Muggeridge, convert (*Chronicles of Wasted Time, Something Beautiful For God*)  
 Marshall McLuhan, convert (*The Medium and the Message, The Gutenberg Galaxy*)  
 Muriel Spark (*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Aiding and Abetting*)  
 Frank McCourt (*Angela’s Ashes, Teacher Man: A Memoir*)  
 Malachy McCourt (*Death Need Not Be Fatal, A Monk Swimming*)  
 Graham Greene (*The Power and the Glory, The Heart of the Matter, Our Man In Havana*)  
 Jules Verne (*Journey to the Center of the Earth; 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*)  
 Blaise Pascal (*Pensees, Miracles and Reason, The Mind on Fire: A Faith for the Skeptical and Indifferent*)  
 Flannery O’Connor (*A Good Man Is Hard To Find, The Violent Bear It Away*)  
 Laura Ingraham (*Power to the People, Shut Up and Sing*)

## COLUMBUS OR BUST!

The morning of June 1<sup>st</sup>, forty folks from Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, St. Mary, and other parishes boarded a luxury bus and headed for Columbus. There, we visited the Jubilee Museum of Catholic Culture, a wonderful place filled with historic treasures, from Catholic toys to ancient books to historic vestments, pews, paintings, altars, and sacred vessels. The founder, Fr. Lutz, came aboard the bus after our tour and talked to us more.

After he left us, we went to German Village, where most feasted on German fare at Schmidt Haus, but others ventured off to Thurman’s, which is known for its ¾-pound burgers and “183,000 BTU giant hot wings.” On the way home: ice cream! It was a great day.

**Hope you can join us  
 next summer for our 4<sup>th</sup>  
 annual parish bus trip!**





## *An Emigration Story: Irena Talandis*



Irena Talandis knows first-hand what it is like to be frightened, hungry, and uncertain of where one will end up living. She was born in Lithuania, but she and her family fled the country when the Russians were invading during World War II. She remembers how her father moved the family deeper and deeper into Germany in 1944, concealing them when necessary to protect Irena and her mother and brother. When the war ended in Europe, the family could not return to Lithuania because they would be considered “war criminals” since they had fled the country. Her father took care of the family and, in 1945, they moved into an American-run displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany. Irena spent several of her teenage years there, living on handouts from the Americans and the

Army as well as from a Catholic organization. A friend of her grandmother was an American citizen, and he initiated the paperwork for the family to emigrate to the United States. However, the friend could not afford to pay for their passage so he turned over arrangements to a Catholic organization and, in 1949, Irena and her family came to the United States.

They arrived in New York City a week before Christmas, and Irena says it was “the best Christmas present you’ll ever get!” They stayed only briefly in New York, then relocated to Chicago, where the family’s American friend lived. Even though her father found work very quickly, they couldn’t afford to remain in the basement apartment where they were living. Irena says the family’s first priority was to pay back the Catholic organization for the cost of their trip, and any spare money went toward that goal. They found more affordable accommodations: a small, one-bedroom apartment, barely large enough to fit a double bed, so Irena slept in the living room and her brother slept in the kitchen. She also worked – at a factory - doing piecework for auto parts. She says it was 120 degrees inside the factory in the winter and “passing out a couple times a day was normal.” Her income went toward helping the family pay off their debt from the trip over. “That had to be done first!” Irena says.

Irena had met her husband-to-be while in the DP camps. He also emigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago. When he asked her father for permission to marry her, Irena’s father requested that she finish high school, as her schooling had been disrupted due to the family’s relocations. She only needed three classes to fulfill the requirements for a diploma, so she attended a Catholic high school to finish her education. After she got married, she and her husband lived in Chicago as well as in Indiana, Texas, and New York (Rochester). They had two children, a son and a daughter. Her husband passed away in 1994; her son, Lucius, is also deceased. Irena went back to Chicago to live and take care of her mother, who had been ill. After her mother passed away, she went to live with her daughter, Regina, in New Mexico. They now reside in Wellington.

Irena grew up with a strong Catholic heritage. She says Lithuania is about 95% Catholic (a very traditional Catholicism), that every town has a church, and cathedrals are even found in small towns. Lithuanians, she says, are very rosary-minded and revere Mother Mary. Farmers would have a cross at the entrance to their property, and the cross would contain a picture of Mary, a little statue or a wood carving. “God’s mother was revered very, very much and still is,” says Irena.

Irena spends her time volunteering with New Life Hospice in Lorain two days each week. She also line dances and has been doing so since 2003. Dancing has played a role in Irena’s life for many years, back to the days when she socialized with other young Lithuanians in Chicago, and going dancing was a way for them to get together. She says that was how she started dating her husband. Another of Irena’s hobbies is doing very intricate beading work on cloth, making jewelry and ornaments to give as gifts. She also makes angel pins and gives them to those in hospice and to the workers and family members. Irena is a very strong believer in angels; that’s why she makes the angel pins. “You cannot sell an angel,” says Irena. “Angels have to be given.”

*Kathy Gulish*



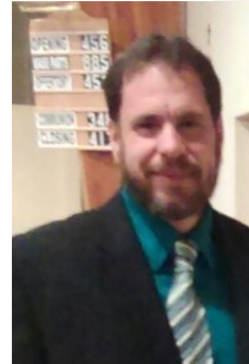
## CONFIRMATION

*“Accipe Signaculum Domini Spiritus Sancti”*

*- Be Sealed With the Gift of the Holy Spirit*

The sacrament of confirmation completes one's initiation into the Catholic Church. The confirmation formation process is designed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the Catholic faith in preparation for this sacrament. Confirmation, like baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on our soul; for this reason Catholics may receive this sacrament only once in their life. Preparation for confirmation aims at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end, catechesis for confirmation strives to nurture a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal church as well as the local parish community. The parish community bears a special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.

Here at Sacred Heart the confirmation formation process is guided by Mr. Chuck Leverknight. Chuck and his wife, Tracy, have 2 boys, Zachary (24) and Isaac (22), and have been parishioners at Sacred Heart 18 years. Chuck and Tracy also have 2 grandchildren, Lucy (1-1/2) and Jaxson (born this past June), who are the children of Zachary and Erin. Erin is the eldest daughter of Ron and Jan Mitchell, also Sacred Heart parishioners.



Sacred Heart's confirmation formation process is about to undergo a significant adjustment. Confirmation instruction in past years has been integrated with the Parish School of Religion (PSR). However, beginning in the fall of 2018 the formation will be a separate instructional program that follows upon graduation from PSR at the conclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To facilitate this change there will not be a formation class in 2017; the sacrament of confirmation will now be celebrated by those who are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or higher. Due to the size of our parish, the bishop comes to Sacred Heart every other year. To facilitate our parish's change to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older confirmation, our next confirmation will be in 2019. While the fundamental objectives of formation do not change, the instructional program to begin after PSR concludes opens additional opportunities for engaging young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the Catholic faith. The program will continue to use the current Decision Point materials. These are designed to prepare young Catholics for the sacrament of confirmation in a dynamic way, but also inspire them to respond and cooperate with God's grace in all the circumstances of their daily lives, long after their confirmation day has passed. In addition to classroom instruction, formation includes a faith in action service component with a combined 30 hours of service to church, community, and family.

A long-held confirmation tradition is the taking of a new name as a sign of one's growth in Christ. Many people choose a saint's name - your confirmation name. As part of the process of choosing a confirmation name, candidates are asked to complete a saint project, the purpose of which is to provide more information about the holy person chosen as a role model.

In addition to confirmation class, faith in action and taking a confirmation name, a candidate must also select a sponsor who must at least 18 years of age and a confirmed and practicing member of the Catholic church. It might make things easier if the sponsor is someone the candidate already has a strong relationship with and finds easy to talk to. The sponsor relationship is one that should continue and strengthen after the candidate has been confirmed.

Near the conclusion of the formation period, each candidate is interviewed by Father Cole or Deacon Tom. Finally, the confirmation candidate sends a letter to Bishop Perez requesting to be confirmed.

As you can see, the confirmation formation program is a significant effort for the candidates, the confirmation catechist, Fr. Cole, Deacon Tom, and the entire community of Sacred Heart parish. Everyone's efforts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

*Brian Barbuto*

**“ ... Rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Cor 13:11)**



### ***PARISHIONER HIGHLIGHT: Dorothy Twining***

On January 19, 1927, Carl Schmitz and Thelma Davis were married in Sacred Heart Church and, on November 17, 1929, Dorothy Ann Schmitz entered into this world, born at the family home. Dorothy's deep family roots go back three generations, as it was her great-grandparents who were the original emigres to the United States. There was a close family bond, and the Schmitz home was adjacent to Dorothy's grandparents' farm. Dorothy was followed by her sister, Shirley, in 1935 and another sister, Rita, in 1941.



Carl and Thelma were well-known in Oberlin: Carl was a meter reader for the city and, as a sideline, grew vegetables to sell to Locke's, A & P, Kroger, Fisher Foods, and Oberlin College as well.

Until the third grade, Dorothy attended the one-room schoolhouse on the corner of Oberlin and Butternut Ridge Roads, when the students were bussed to the Oberlin City schools. She recalls the games they played at the old school. One was "einie I over," where a ball was thrown over the school. "Work-up" baseball games, which amounted to continuous games played until there were no more players, or until dark, took place at the Justin home.

Occasionally, if the car failed or roads were too snowy, the whole family would walk to the old Sacred Heart Church on Pleasant Street. After Sunday Mass, the family would visit outside church to discuss the week's happenings and to decide what family home would host that Sunday's dinner. Afterwards, there would be a family music fest with a concertina and a harmonica or two accompanied, in a pinch, by Dorothy playing the piano.

Lawrence Twining and Dorothy first met as schoolmates and, when Larry returned from four years in the Navy during the Korean War, they were married in Sacred Heart Church.

Dorothy relates that this was the first "mixed" marriage performed in the church: Larry was taking instructions in the faith from the pastor, Fr. Martin Engelhardt, and the rule that a "mixed" marriage should be celebrated in the rectory was in the process of being changed; therefore, the marriage took place in the church.

Larry and Dorothy were well-known in Oberlin, as were Dorothy's parents. Larry was a long-time employee of the Fisher Fazio grocery store, and Dorothy's employers included AAA, Fisher Foods, T. O. Murphy, Great Lakes Glass, Rowe Motors and the Oberlin Clinic, from which she retired after 30 years. Then, for six years, she volunteered at Allen Hospital.

Of course, we can't forget the famous chicken dinners. Dorothy's mother helped peel potatoes and cook chickens the day prior to the event, and her father ran the bingo game. Dorothy herself helped supervise the serving crew. She was also a parish council member, serving while Father Padavick was pastor.

In 1955, for the occasion of the 75th anniversary celebration of Sacred Heart parish, Dorothy's mother, Thelma, served on the organization committee; her father was a solicitor for the event and worked bingo.

Larry and Dorothy had two children: a son, Gary, and a daughter, Jane. Currently, she has 1 grandson, 2 great-grandchildren, and 5 step-grandchildren in Hawaii. Her daughter, Jane, passed away in 2013 at the age of 58. Her husband, Larry, passed away in 1999.

Over the years, Dorothy has traveled extensively, including domestic destinations to visit family in South Carolina, a gambling trip to Minnesota, and five trips to Hawaii to visit her daughter when she was living there. For 5 years, she and her friend, Joan Forney, spent the winters in Florida in a trailer they bought.

While Dorothy is technically classified as a "shut-in" and receives Communion through the Eucharistic Ministry, she in fact still drives to Drug Mart and the IGA store; her health limitations, however, prevent her from sitting in a church pew for the duration of the Mass. Dorothy remains active in parish life by participating in the Sacred Heart prayer chain program. She has an iPad and keeps in contact with her family on a constant basis.

*Dorothy, we thank you for your active participation in our parish life these many years, and for your continual spiritual support. You epitomize the ageless spirit that ensures the ongoing health of the parish.*

**Joe McCormick**

**"If possible, on your part, live at peace with all." (Romans 12: 18)**



## *LIFT: Ladies In Fellowship Together*

**LIFT** is a women's group open to all women parishioners of Sacred Heart, ages 18 and older. The group, with generally 10-15 women in attendance, usually meets once a month on the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Education Building. The emphasis is on creating a positive, welcoming, confidential environment for women to gather and discuss their joys and their concerns, to enjoy fellowship with one another, and to share and strengthen their faith.

In November 2013, two women members of parish council had separate, but strikingly similar, ideas for the formation of a women's group. They got together and discussed the concept with Fr. Cole. They both strongly believed there should be a group in which the women of the parish could come simply to enjoy fellowship with one another and to share their faith. Thus, the foundation for LIFT came into being.

The first meeting of the newly-formed women's group was held on Saturday, February 15, 2014. The basic focus was established as "faith, fellowship and fun." Other organizations already existed to provide service, engage in Bible study, center on prayer, focus on social concerns, etc. The founders believed there should be a group in which women could just get together to share their joys and concerns, discuss their struggles and aspirations, discuss faith issues, and pray with each other.

The initial meeting provided an opportunity for women to bring in objects to help everyone learn more about each other, such as craft items, photographs of places lived in or visited, or musical instruments played. In subsequent meetings, ideas were submitted for events and opportunities for the group. The name of the group was established as LIFT, focusing on gatherings intended to lift each other up and to enhance fellowship with one another. Meetings were scheduled for Tuesday evenings to meet the schedules of the maximum number of potential attendees.

Members were encouraged to attend as often as they could, but with no demands. In order to provide a core for faith discussions, the group began using a journaling program, "The Circle of Catholic Women." Through the use of the program's journaling books, which take the reader through thought-provoking spiritual questions, and follow-on group sharing, many topics are introduced and discussed. These have included topics such as relationships, prayer, Catholic rituals and traditions, spiritual role models, values and beliefs, and other topics aimed at helping Catholic women deepen their faith and find peace in their daily lives. The journal helps guide discussions, but other ideas and concerns are shared as they arise.

In addition to the journaling program, LIFT has held several events, including:

A ladies' tea for women of the parish and their daughters, granddaughters and/or goddaughters

Instruction in and making of rosaries

A chili cook-off for the whole parish

Viewing and discussion of the movie *God's Not Dead* and *The Shack*.

An *Evening of Reflection* with Sr. Cheryl Rose for the ladies of LIFT and of nearby parishes

Ideas for events and discussions are always welcome!

Again, women of the parish are encouraged to attend as they are able. There are no prerequisites and no required readings, just a desire to listen and grow in faith and fellowship.

*Cindy Sanders*



## RECOMMENDED READING

*The Abbey: A Story of Discovery*, by James Martin, S.J. (Harper One, 2015). Review: “With this beautiful, touching and utterly believable novel, seekers will be gently invited to encounter the divine and believers be encouraged to deepen their relationships with God. I loved this book and loved the characters! (Richard Rohr, author of *Everything Belongs*)”

*7 Secrets of Confession*, by Vinny Flynn (Ignatius Press, 2013 ). Review: “In *7 Secrets of Confession*, he addresses the most misunderstood sacrament of the Church, and his readers will never look at confession the same way again. Taking the intimidation factor out of this great sacrament, he brings it into new relevancy for today's Catholics and helps us realize that confession is not something we have to do; it's something we get to do. --Felix Carroll, Author, *Lost, Loved, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions*”

of

**“The world will never starve for want of wonders; but only for want of wonder.”  
(G.K. Chesterton)**

## SECOND HEARING

For many years, I taught PSR and confirmation classes for Lorain parishes. Students regularly had assignments outside their textbooks, and one of those involved music. Not church music. They were to choose one of their favorite popular songs, handwrite the lyrics (so they'd really pay attention to the words), and bring their work to class.

The night we talked about the songs, I asked what it was that attracted each of them to the one they'd chosen. Did they find their song uplifting? Did it bring any beauty or peace into their lives? Did it speak of love? What kind of love? The love they had for God? For a friend? The love God had for them? Not surprisingly, the answer was often no, nor had they even considered that music (other than hymns) should lead them to such thoughts.

It's fun, though, to take song titles and lyrics and consider them in a different – a second – light. If we're conscious of the possibilities, we might find God speaks to us in this way ... or we can make the words a kind of prayer to God.

Here are some examples: “Turn around, look at me” ... “Will you still love me tomorrow?” ... “I'll go to my grave loving you” ... “Lean on me when you're not strong” ... “You raise me up so I can stand on mountains ... so I can walk on stormy seas” ... “I will always love you” ... “All roads lead to you” ... “Always on my mind” ... “Love will turn you around” ... “Stand by me” .... “I'd rather live in his world than live without him in mine.”

Even lighter music can work; for example, Cole Porter's “Friendship”: “If you're ever in a jam, here I am. If you're ever in a mess, S.O.S.”

Have the gift of “second hearing.” You have favorite songs ... why not use them as part of your prayer life?

*C. Wilhelm*



## FUN FAIR!



This August, for the first time, Sacred Heart was part of the **Oberlin Family Fun Fair**. Happily, there were plenty of volunteers, starting with Kathy, Andy, and Matt Gulish, and Matt's friend, Joy, who picked up a canopy, table, chairs, and a cooler of bottled water from the rectory garage.

Then, with help and encouragement from the pastor, they set it all up in front of the hotel. We were prepared to greet the public with joyful attitudes and flyers on Catholicism, on "coming home" to the Catholic Church, and addressing concerns of those with same-sex attraction.

The Ignanis – Blaise, Nickholas, Noelle, and Vincenzo – ran the corn hole games

that were available for children as well as adults. Throughout the day, the table was staffed by several volunteers, including Eric Carpenter, Fr. Cole, Jackie Findish (whose husband, Tom, made our wonderful new banner), Gerry Findlan, Kathy Gulish, Matt Gulish and Joy, Joe McCormick, Sue Palmieri, Cherie Parrish, Dan Steinacker, and Carrol Wilhelm. Ruth Steinacker also helped load everything back into the truck at the end of the day, and Larry "Lorenzo" Cariglio graciously provided us with pizza for lunch. Sunday we were to have had an open house, and Joe Palmieri was an added volunteer for that.



Each volunteer wore one of the **new Sacred Heart t-shirts** with logo designed by our own Lauren Shrimplin. We looked like a real team and, happily for the rest of the parish,

**the shirts will be available for \$10 each in youth sizes S/M/L and adult sizes from Small to 5X. Please call 440-371-8356 if you're interested in ordering!**



**"... We, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another." (Romans 12:5)**



## *On Her Return to the PSR Staff*

With the end of summer and the beginning of fall, I am reminded that the ebb and flow of the seasons mirror the disorder and order that comes with the ending of summer and beginning of a new school year. While it seems like last May was only a trip to the beach ago (which I never did manage to accomplish this summer), here it is September and time to think about a new PSR school year.

After a ten-year hiatus, I'm returning to the education building and to a half-dozen third-graders. As a mother of six myself, I have nothing to fear!

Never mind that my brood isn't comprised of all nine-year-olds and the two oldest have since gone over the fence.

The first time I volunteered to help teach, I was mistakenly flattered when Tom Theado, then PSR coordinator, asked me to take over a class mid-year. I soon learned that the class I was stepping into had already gone through a few teachers that year alone. It wasn't that the kids were bad ... only there were A LOT of them. But every week I would silently chant some Hail Marys and keep my back to the chalkboard, and we made it through.

It's hard not to confuse my own childhood memories of Sacred Heart CCD with my experiences as a mediocre teacher with good intentions. When I last taught, I had nearly two semesters of an education major under my belt, and I prided myself on never once telling my classroom of kids they were going to the devil (although that wasn't the word my own third-grade CCD teacher used). I'm not judging, we *too* were a fairly large group, if not always very virtuous.

This time, I'm coming back knowing exactly what I'm getting into and with a renewed appreciation for the work the PSR staff have been doing all along. I am humbled and blessed to be able to return, knowing that I learn as much about our faith from these children as they do from us.

I cannot promise that over the years I have developed into any better a teacher, but I do promise I will do my best.

Please pray for the entire PSR staff and substitutes this year -- that we be guided by Christ and be granted patience, understanding, and knowledge as we share God's message.

*Marla Thompson*

**“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)**



**Sacred Heart Parish  
410 West Lorain Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074-1002**

*Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions! We would really appreciate feedback of any kind and would like to know if people are reading this newsletter.*

*You can send your comments to EDITOR at:*

[sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheart1newsletter@gmail.com)

*Feel free to submit your comments, suggestions for future items or an article of general interest to our parishioners. This newsletter goes to all registered parishioners and is a way to reach out to the entire Sacred Heart community and hopefully beyond.*

*Thank you, we would love to hear from you.*